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INSTRUCTIONS

FOR THE

PROVISIONAL CAVALRY.



HIS Royal Highneſs the COMMANDER in CHIEF directs that the following Inſtructions be obſerved by the Proviſional Cavalry, when they are called out and embodied.

By Command of His Royal Highneſs

The COMMANDER in CHIEF.

WILLIAM FAWCETT,

Adjutant General.

INSTRUCTIONS

FOR THE

PROVISIONAL CAVALRY.

PART I.

Reſpecting the interior Oeconomy of the Corps.

THE following Inſtructions are calculated to eſtabliſh uniformity of Syſtem in the Care of the Men and Horſes, and muſt be conſidered as the Standing Orders of the Corps.

The Proviſional Cavalry having aſſembled, the Commanding Officer will proceed to form them into Troops, and appoint the proper Officers and Non- Forming into Troops.

commiſſioned Officers to each Troop, if not already done: after which the next Step will be to divide the Troops into Squads; that is, to attach to the Care of every Serjeant, an equal Number of Privates of the Troop to which he belongs, who aſſiſted by a Corporal, will have to inſtruct them in their Duty, be reſponſible for the Regularity of their Conduct in Quarters, and enſure an Obedience to all Orders.

Troops divided into Squads.

Quartering in Cantonments.

Non-commiſſioned Officers muſt be quartered with the Men of their Squads, for which Purpoſe the Town will be divided into Cantonments, allotting to each Troop a ſeparate Cantonment, taking care that the Quartering of one Troop does not interfere with the other, either in Men or Horſes. In like manner, the Non-commiſſioned Officers and their Squads are to be billetted in Houſes contiguous to each other, the Men and their Horſes being under the Direction of the ſame Squad Officer.

The

The Men of each Squad muſt be formed into Meſſes under the Direction of the Squad Officer. The Health of of the Corps will greatly depend on this Particular, and their Cleanlineſs in Quarters. The Meſſes will be laid in, once or twice per Week, as the Markets require, and care taken that four Shillings and Sixpence per Week, ſhall be applied by every Man, towards the Expences of his Meſs.

Eſtabliſhing of Meſſes.

The Mens Meſſes to be daily inſpected by an Officer per Troop, who will obſerve that the Soldiers Rooms are kept clean and airy, that the Bedding is taken care of, and each Man's Appointments hung up, and in good Order.

Viſiting of Meſſes and Quarters.

The Condition of the Horſes depends on the Mode of treating them:—It is neceſſary that the utmoſt Attention be

Treatment of the Horſes.

paid to a proper Diſcharge of Stable Duties. Horſes require to be fed and dreſſed at leaſt three Times a Day, and thoſe at fixt Hours; to be watered Morning and Evening, and regularly exerciſed each Day for two Hours.

iſiting of e Stables.

Officers and non-commiſſioned Officers ſhould be required to viſit the Stables at the Hours the Men dreſs their Horſes. Squad Non-commiſſioned Officers muſt frequently make the Round of their Squads during every Stable Hour. The Officers are to attend at leaſt once a Day, when the Quarter-maſter Serjeant muſt accompany them in making the Round of their Troops.

In viſiting the Stables, Officers will obſerve whether Stable Duties are diſcharged, according to the Orders of the Corps:—They muſt examine the Quality of the Forage, and take particular Care that the Horſes are fed up to the Allowance, ordered by His Majeſty's Regulations,

Regulations, which is fully equal to maintain Horſes in the higheſt Condition, under every Circumſtance of Duty and Fatigue:—The Horſes Backs are to be inſpected, and Care taken to have the Saddles immediately altered where any Injury has been ſuſtained.

Shoeing of the Horſes.

As much depends on the Attention paid to the Shoeing of the Horſes, it will be proper to procure a ſet of Shoes, with Nails, made on the exact Pattern pointed out by the Veterinary College, for the Shoeing of Dragoon Horſes;—and the Farriers of the Corps ſhould be made to ſhoe in conformity to thoſe Patterns. The Troop Officers to be reſponſible that the Horſes are always well ſhod.

Inſpection of Men's Neceſſaries.

The Complement of Neceſſaries ſhould be kept complete, without which Men can neither be clean or healthy.—And in order to prevent Neceſſaries being

ing diſpoſed of, a weekly Inſpection by the Officers will be requiſite—when every Article of Neceſſaries muſt be produced.

Dreſs of the Corps.

Uniformity of Dreſs is neceſſary to the military Appearance of the Corps; therefore whatever is the eſtabliſhed Uniform, no Deviation from it ſhould be permitted; and Officers are on no Account to appear in Quarters out of Uniform, ſuch Conduct being contrary to His Majeſty's expreſs Orders.

Care of the Sick.

Should the Corps be divided in ſuch Manner, that the Surgeon cannot attend the whole of the Sick, the Officers commanding in the different Quarters will employ a Perſon for the Care of the Men.

A Return of the Sick of each Troop will be given every Morning to the Surgeon,

geon, and they muſt attend him at ſixt Hours; thoſe who are not able, the Surgeon will viſit at their Quarters.

Alarm-Poſt.

Whenever a Regiment arrives in a Quarter, an Alarm-Poſt is to be fixt on, and ſpecified in Orders. If at any Time the Trumpet ſounds *to Arms!* every Man muſt repair on Foot with his Arms and Ammunition to the Alarm-Poſt; but ſhould the Trumpet ſound *to Horſe!* then all turn out fully accoutred on Horſeback.

Troop Accounts.

A Captain is reſponſible for the Correctneſs of his Troop's Accounts. He may appoint the Quarter Maſter Serjeant to ſerve as his Clerk, who will have to keep the Troop Books, and provide the Men with Neceſſaries. It is the Captain's indiſpenſible Duty to ſee that the Neceſ-

ſaries delivered are good, purchaſed at the loweſt Rate, and iſſued at prime Coſt. The Men are to be accounted with, and have their Balances paid them, every two Months, at which Time the Clerks will produce their Regiſter Books to the Adjutant, who, under the Direction of the Commanding Officer, is to examine them:—they will alſo give in a Liſt of Debts and Credits ſigned by the Commanding Officer of the Troop, for the Commanding Officer of the Corps.

Duty in Quarters.

In ſettled Quarters it will be proper to appoint an orderly Officer, and likewiſe to mount a Serjeant's Guard, but every unneceſſary Interference with the Drills muſt be ſtudiouſly avoided, as the chief Object at preſent ſhould be, to perfect Troops in Diſcipline, and render them immediately Effective.

A Horſeman finds ſuch conſtant occupation

pation in attending Drills, and to the Care of his Horſe and Appointments, that Parades purpoſely for the Inſpection of the Mens Dreſs need not be inſtituted; therefore Squads muſt be minutely examined before they commence drilling; and it will be found, that by being thus inſpected in detail, the ſmalleſt Imperfection of Dreſs is ſeen, which frequently eſcapes notice in general Parades of the Regiment.*

* The detail of all the foregoing Circumſtances, and to which Reference is to be made, will be found in the Firſt Part of the Standing Orders for the Cavalry, publiſhed by Authority, and printed by Walter, in 1795.

PART II.

Drill on Horſeback.

THE Drills of the Proviſional Cavalry are to be conducted on Horſeback, except when learning the Rudiments of the Sword Exerciſe, which may be attained on Foot. The Mode of Inſtruction will be arranged for three diſtinct CLASSES, in order that thoſe who are Horſemen may be immediately made acquainted with the moſt uſeful Manœuvres, and likewiſe contribute their Aſſiſtance in forming the junior Claſſes of the Corps.

Drill on Horſeback.

Claſſing for Drill.

Every Perſon whether Non-commiſſioned Officer or Private is to be claſſed; for which Purpoſe an Officer muſt

muſt be appointed to inſpect their Riding, and attach each Perſon to a Claſs, according to his Abilities in Horſemanſhip. This Arrangement ſhould take Place as ſoon as poſſible, after the Corps aſſembles in Quarters. The firſt Inſpection of their Riding, for the Purpoſe of claſſing, ought to be made in ſmall Squads of five or ſix Men riding in a Circle.

By thus dividing Men into Claſſes, their Abilities are diſtinguiſhed, and the Progreſs of Individuals is more readily perceived and brought forward.

The Proviſional Cavalry have not Time to be made perfect in all the Rules of Manage Riding; what they have principally to attain in Horſemanſhip, is a firm Seat, and to be able to direct their Horſes without Difficulty. When this is attained, they may be inſtructed in the Leſſons pointed out for the third or

ſenior

ſenior Claſs, and be employed in drilling the two junior Claſſes of the Corps.

Drilling in Squads.

As the Rudiments of every Art demand individual Explanation, particularly in the earlieſt Stages of Inſtruction, it is not poſſible for a Drill Officer to inſtruct a numerous Squad, without great Loſs of Time to thoſe Men who are moſt quick in receiving Impreſſions of the Service; therefore each Claſs will be drilled in Squads, not exceeding from fifteen to twenty Perſons; and the ſmaller the Squads are for the junior Claſs, the better they will be formed.

According to this Arrangement, every Perſon in the Corps may with the utmoſt eaſe be drilled in Squads for an Hour a Day, and without Fatigue to the Drill Officers; for admitting the Number of the Corps to conſiſt of three Hundred

Men, and that the Squads amount to twenty Perſons each, it would require fifteen Hours to drill them, which divided by five Drill Officers, leaves each of them three Hours to be employed in drilling: But it is to be ſuppoſed that a Corps containing the Number from which the foregoing Example is drawn, muſt be able to furniſh more than five Men capable of giving Inſtruction, and will conſequently afford ample Means of cloſing the Horſe Drill at an early Hour of the Morning, and thereby enable Part of the Afternoon to be employed at the Sword Drill, and ſuch Duties as the interior Regulation of the Corps may require.

Attendance of Officers at Drills.

Although the Perſons moſt capable of giving Inſtruction at Drills, are to be appointed indiſcriminately, whether non-commiſſioned Officer or Private; it is not meant that they ſhould be left to carry on the Inſtruction of the Corps uncontrouled; Officers muſt attend at all

all Drills, to aſſiſt and ſuperintend the Conduct of thoſe who direct Squads.

The Inſtructions, given at Drills, ſhould be as much as poſſible conformable to the eſtabliſhed Principles of good Horſemanſhip. Yet it is not neceſſary that Men ſhould attain perfect Execution before they are removed from one Claſs to another.

If they can ſet their Horſes, direct them, and underſtand what is required of them, when commanded, they muſt be conſidered fit for the Ranks; as conſtant Practice in the ſame Things, will lead them eventually to execute with more Preciſion.

Inſtruction for the firſt or youngeſt Claſs.

The FIRST CLASS ſhould begin with inſtructing how to mount and diſmount; and then be taught the proper Poſition of the Body and Bridle-Hand when on Horſeback. To ride in Circle, firſt at a Walk, and then a Trot, turning the

Horſe to the Right and Left about;—reining back and moving forward. Finally to form a Rank entire, to know the Diſtance of Files, with the Manner of Dreſſing and Ranking off.

Thoſe who have the Direction of Squads at Drill, muſt attend mounted, in order to exemplify every Part of the Inſtruction they are required to convey. Their Directions muſt be given in a diſtinct and full Tone of Voice, ſo that they may be heard by every Man in the Circle, which will command Attention:—And as generally the ſame Points of Awkwardneſs appear in all Men, when learning the ſame Thing, the whole Circle will be corrected, by the Directions addreſt to an Individual, if the Drill Officer is diſtinctly heard.

As Attention for any Length of Time cannot at firſt be expected of Recruits; the Squads muſt frequently be halted, during

during each Leſſon, and the Men allowed to ſit at eaſe.*

The SECOND CLASS will begin by trotting for a Quarter of an Hour, round the Circle, without Stirrups ;—then unite the different Squads that may be drilling at the ſame Hour, and form them in two Ranks. If they amount in Number to a Troop, tell them off in two Diviſions, Ranks by Threes, and right and left Files, placing Non-commiſſioned Officers, or intelligent Privates to the command of Diviſions.

Inſtruction for the Second Claſs.

They ſhould next ride in Stirrups, and be taught the Diſtance of Ranks, in open and cloſe Order—To wheel Ranks by Threes to the Left and Right—

* Under the Article *Horſe Drill* in the *Cavalry Standing Orders* of 1795, publiſhed by Walter, an ample Detail is given of what is here pointed out as a Practice for the firſt Claſs.

March to a Flank and cover—To turn the Head of the Column, on a moveable Pivot, by bringing the right or left Shoulder forward, then halt and wheel up into Line—To mount and diſmount in Ranks—To file and form—To break off Ranks by Twos and form, and to move forward and retire in Line.

When riding in the Ranks, Men are to keep ſteady to the Points of Dreſſing, their Legs without Motion and cloſe to their Horſes. Care is to be taken by the Rider to keep his Horſe to the exact Pace ordered, as no Movement of Cavalry can be correctly executed, without due Attention to Intervals and Uniformity of Pace.

When this Claſs is perfect, in the preceding Rudiments of Manœuvre, they are to be taught the Exerciſe of the Piſtol on Horſeback, and the Uſe of the Sword, confining themſelves to the Aſſault, and the fourth Diviſion of Movements,

ments, as ſet forth in the Sword Exerciſe Regulations for the Cavalry.

The THIRD CLASS is to be inſtructed in Squadron, which muſt be told off, and have the proper Officers and Non-commiſſioned Officers appointed. They are to move forward and retire in Line, to go through their Wheelings, firſt by Diviſions and afterwards by half Squadrons. The Markers who direct the Degree of the Wheel, muſt be inſtructed in that Duty—The Officers and Non-commiſſioned Officers muſt know the Flank to which they ſhould ſhift, and the whole the proper Points of Dreſſing—They muſt be taught to march in open and cloſe Columns; changing the Direction and Pace of the Column on the March; and finally, wheel from open Column into Line.

Inſtruction for the third Claſs.

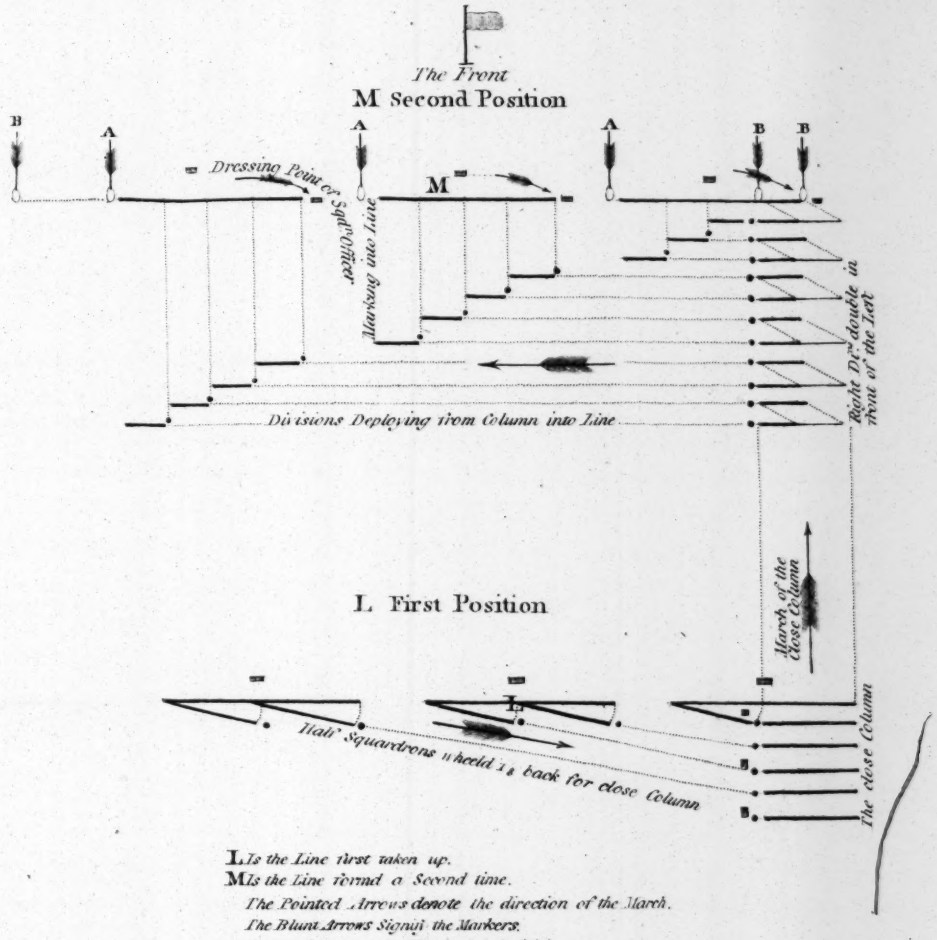
The Operation of a ſingle Squadron in all its breakings off, has no Difference of Execution when manœuvring in Corps; therefore, having in the third Claſs been inſtructed to break into Column, and march to a Flank, it is only neceſſary to obſerve, that the ſame Movements may be executed by a Corps, formed of Squadrons, arranged in Line to any Extent. The Attention of the Proviſional Cavalry muſt principally be directed to the following Manœuvres.

Manœuvres, Plate I.

From Line, form a cloſe Column of half Squadrons on the Right, with the right half Squadron in Front—March—and on the March, open out the Column to half Diſtance, then reduce the Front to a cloſe Column of Diviſions—Halt, deploy, and form Line.

Form

Plate I



L *Is the Line first taken up.*
M *Is the Line formd a Second time.*
The Pointed Arrows denote the direction of the March.
The Blunt Arrows Signify the Markers.
Dotted lines show the March of each division.
B *Are the Markers for the General Alignment*
A *Are the Squadron Markers.*

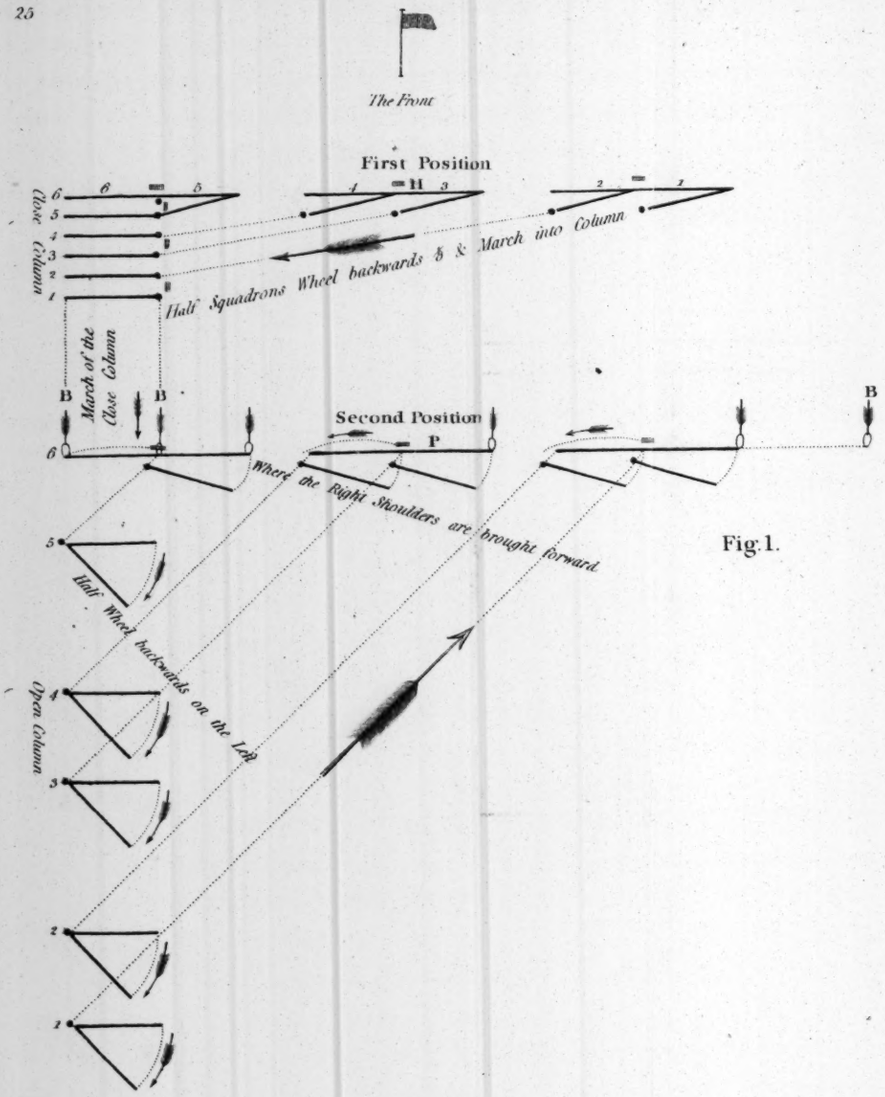


Fig. 1.

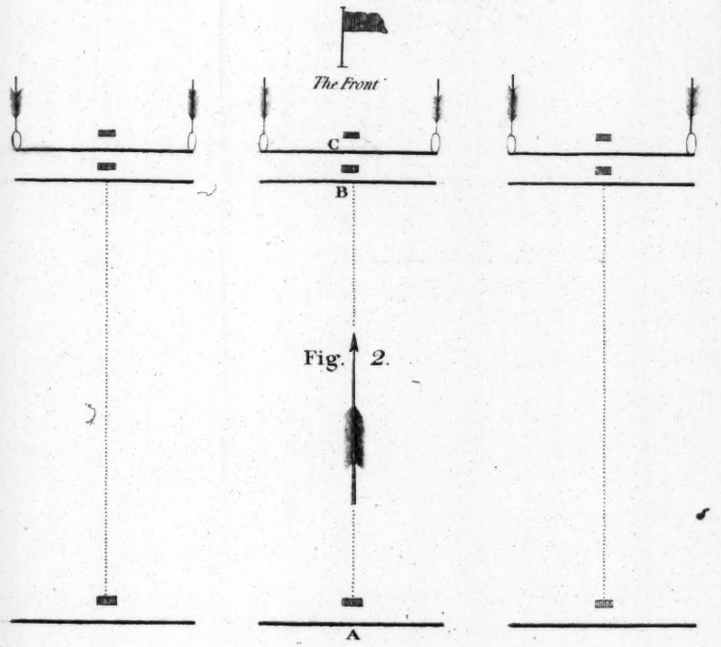


Fig. 2.

The First line **A** *Charges to position* **B**.
From position **B** *the line is drest by*
Markers and Advances to position **C**.

Form a close Column of half Squadrons on the Left; with the left half Squadron in Front, wheel about Ranks by Threes—Retire the Column, and in so doing open out to wheeling Intervals. It will then halt and front—When by the oblique March, half Squadrons are to advance and form the Line. Plate II. Fig. 1.

The Line is to advance at a Trot, and retire at a Walk; after which move forward to the Charge. Plate II. Fig 2.

Marching and charging in Line, and preserving Distances in open Column, are two Things which require the most Practice to attain, and are of the most essential Utility.

The Officer commanding the Line must deliver his Orders in a distinct Manner, taking care to make the proper Pause on those Directions that are *cautionary*, in order to allow Time for Officers

Officers to underſtand what is required of them; and ſuch other Words of Command as direct the immediate Execution of any Movement, he will deliver with Quickneſs and Expreſſion.

When in Line, Words of Command are repeated by Squadron Officers; but in open Column of half Squadrons, the half Squadron Officers repeat; and Diviſion Officers, when in Diviſions.

In all Movements thoſe who are to repeat *Words of Command*, muſt *lead* their reſpective Diviſions in the Execution of the Manœuvre. Officers *lead* from the *dreſſing* Point, whether in Column or Line. When in Line, Squadrons dreſs to their Center, and Officers leading from the Center of Squadrons, regulate the Dreſſing of the Line by the Squadron of Direction.

In Column of half Squadrons or Diviſions, the Dreſſing is to that Flank, where Officers are, whoſe Poſts are deter-

determined, by the breaking off with Right or Left in Front.

The Officers who conduct Diviſions in Movements, are reſponſible for the Intervals being correctly taken, and preſerved; therefore whether in Line or Column, their Attention muſt be confined to thoſe two Points, and not the *Dreſſing of the Men*; which ſhould be attended to by the ſupernumerary Officers, or Non-commiſſioned Officers poſted in the Rear. *

* The more minute Detail of whatever regards the Points of Inſtruction for the Second and Third Drills, and for the Movements and Manœuvres, are to be found in the Cavalry Regulations of Exerciſe and Movement of 1796, and in their Elucidation of 1798, publiſhed by Authority, by Egerton.

PART III.

Conduct of the Corps when ſingle or when advanced before the Army.

WHEN the Corps is moving in Column of March, whatever is the Front of the Diviſion which leads, the ſame Front muſt be obſerved by every ſucceeding Diviſion, and every Alteration of Direction, or Pace, made by the leading Diviſion, muſt be conformed to by the others, without waiting a general Order for that Purpoſe. March of a Column.

When marching near an Enemy, an advance Guard and Patroles on the Flanks are neceſſary to guard againſt a Surpriſe; The Advance Guard

Surpriſe; the Strength of both muſt depend on that of the Body in March and other Circumſtances.

An Advance Guard conſiſting of one Officer and forty Men, ſhould be conducted in the Manner following: which Example will ſerve to explain the Principle, on which more conſiderable Bodies are to act on the ſame Service.

The Advance Guard, in general, marches in Front of the Column, about two Hundred Yards; but the Diſtance muſt depend on the Nature of the Country, which when woody, makes it neceſſary to remain nearer the main Body, than when it is free from Encloſures.

From the Advance Guard, the Officer detaches to his Front, a Serjeant and twelve Men, who are to preſerve the ſame Diſtance from the Officer's Party, that the Officer is from the Column. The Serjeant is in like Manner to ſend two Men forward, and detach two others, one on each Flank, as ſide Patroles, who

who are to keep in a Line with thoſe Men moſt in advance. The Officer will for the ſame Purpoſe, detach one Non-commiſſioned Officer and four Men, on each of his Flanks. The ſide Patroles are diſtant between three and four Hundred Yards on the Flanks, which Diſtance varies according to the Places they have to examine, and the Impediments met with on the March. They are not to loſe Sight of each other for any Length of Time, but to take Advantage of every Height to look round them, and ſee that they preſerve a correſponding Line with each other, and the March of the Advance Guard. The Patroles muſt examine all Villages, Hollow Ways and Woods, that lie in the Direction of their March; taking Care to reconnoitre from the Heights, the Country below, before they deſcend into the Vallies. As ſoon as the Enemy is perceived, the Perſon who diſcovers him, muſt fire a Piſtol to announce it; when the Non-commiſſioned

Officer

Officer of the Party will ride to the Spot, and having made his Obſervations, ſend a correct Report of what he has ſeen to the Officer, who is to convey it to the Officer commanding the Column.

Flank Patroles of a Column.

It is a neceſſary Precaution to ſend out ſide Patroles from the Column, and likewiſe a Rear Guard, when it is poſſible for an Enemy to approach in that Direction. The Rear Guard is to be conducted on the ſame Principle directed for the Advance.

The Rear Guard.

Breaking off into Column according to the Poſition of the Enemy.

Whenever an Enemy can approach only on one Flank, then the Column muſt march off accordingly; for Inſtance, if the Enemy is to the Left of the Line of March, break off into Column from the Right, and the reverſe when the Enemy is on the Right.

March to the Relief of an Advance Poſt.

In marching from Camp to the Relief of an Out-poſt, an advance Guard is proper,

proper, although within the Line of your own Poſts.

When arrived at the Poſt, the Relief takes Place by drawing up oppoſite the old Guard, who muſt be on Horſeback to receive the new Guard. The Number of Men neceſſary for the Relief of the Videts (or Sentries), are then to be marched off, and conducted by a Non-commiſſioned Officer of the old Guard. The Officers attend the Relief, and the relieving Officer muſt inform himſelf of the particular Orders of every Videt; have pointed out to him how far the Videts are advanced by Day, and where retired to at Night; whether the Enemy appeared during the preceding twenty-four Hours, and in what Direction.—He muſt aſk the Names of the Villages, and the Direction of the Roads, which he will compare on the Spot with his Map.—He ſhould know what Patroles have been made, to what Diſtance, and how frequent; what Poſts his Flanks

Relief of an advance Poſt.

communicate with; and, in Caſe of an Attack, the Support to be expected, and from what Quarters. He likewiſe will inform himſelf of the Name of the Field Officer commanding the Line of Poſts, and where he is to be found, in order to report to him if neceſſary.

Duty on the advanced Poſt.

The Relief having been made, the new Guard will take up the ſame Ground which the old one occupied. The Men may diſmount, but not take off their Accoutrements, or be permitted to ſtray from their Horſes.

The Horſes are to be kept conſtantly bitted, except when feeding, which muſt never exceed one Fourth of the Number at a Time, and at ſuch Hours as the Enemy are leaſt likely to appear.

No Perſon is to be allowed to paſs the Out-Poſt, without producing an Order from the General commanding in Chief; nor is any Perſon to be permitted to approach

proach the Guard, under a Pretence of ſelling Proviſions, or for any other Purpoſe, without the Officer firſt being informed of it.

The Officer muſt viſit his Videts frequently by Day, and keep conſtant Patroles moving by Night. The Appearance of an Enemy in Force, their Approach by Night—or the Deſertion of any of the Videts with the Watch-Word, muſt not only be immediately communicated to the Field Officer commanding, but to the Poſts on the Right and Left; and the *Counterſign* be changed to guard againſt Surpriſe.

Before Sun ſet, if not done in the early part of the Day, the Officer ſhould reconnoitre in Front of his Poſt; for which Purpoſe he muſt determine from his Map, the Route to be taken, and with fifteen or twenty of his Guard, he will advance on the ſame Principle of Caution pointed out for an advanced Guard; only, that the Party muſt be

Reconnoitring.

concentrated, the Force being leſs conſiderable and unſupported. An Officer, on Out-Poſt Duty, ſhould be provided with a good Glaſs, which in reconnoitring, will always be found very ſerviceable. Wherever two Roads meet, the Party ſhould halt, till one of the Roads is reconnoitred, without which, it cannot be ſafe to proceed on the other.

On Duties of Patrole, or reconnoitring Parties, the Men muſt be ſilent and watchful, and march at open Files.

Night Patroles.

At Night, Patroles are to be conducted in ſmaller Bodies than reconnoitring Parties; they will direct their March on the different Roads leading towards the Enemy. Three Men are to be advanced in Front of the Patrole; two of whom may be a Hundred Yards, and

and the third Man fifty more, in Front of them—a Caution always requiſite to be taken to guard againſt Surpriſe.

A Non-commiſſioned Officer, or Junior Officer, generally conducts the Patrole, as the Officer commanding muſt not leave his Guard during the Night.

The utmoſt Silence is neceſſary to the Safety of a Patrole, and that they ſhould march with Files very open. The Barking of Dogs in Villages occupied by the Enemy—moving of Lights, or any Noiſe breaking in on the Stillneſs of Night; are Tokens of the Enemy being in Motion; and to which Patroles muſt direct their particular Attention.

The Guard will mount their Horſes an Hour before Sun-ſet, and continue ſo till Dark; likewiſe before Day-break, and remain mounted, till the Approach of an Enemy may be clearly perceived, or that the Relief arrives: which Relief generally takes Place at Day-break, in Order

Order to have the Guards doubled at the Time moſt dangerous for Surpriſe. *

* On the above Subject, and on Field Service, much Information is to be gained from the King of Pruſſia's Inſtructions to his Cavalry Officers, tranſlated by Lt. Forſter; alſo in General Warnery's Treatiſe on Cavalry, tranſlated by Lt. Colonel Koehler, and Inſtructions for Huſſars and Light Cavalry acting as ſuch in Time of War, all publiſhed by Egerton.



FINIS.